

Representative WIDNALL. Will you submit it for the record if you find it?

Secretary WIRTZ. Yes, sir.

(The information referred to follows.)

Teenagers have the same opportunity to enter apprenticeship programs as adults, provided they meet the qualifications. In general, 18 years of age is the minimum—in part because high school graduation is usually required and because hazardous working conditions are relatively common.

Evidence of the acceptance of teenagers in apprenticeship is shown by the average (median) age of apprentices already in training—22.9 years. Therefore, many of these apprentices would have started their training during their teens. In addition, a recent check on the ages of 2,495 beginning apprentices in the Washington, D.C. area showed 935 entrants under 20 years of age.

It is quite possible, however, that some employers might prefer older boys as apprentices, particularly in the light of the fact that younger ones may be subject to the draft at some time during their training.

Representative WIDNALL. The Council of Economic Advisers foresees a 4 percent growth of real output this year. Louis Paradiso of the Department of Commerce estimates the growth would have to increase $4\frac{1}{2}$ percent to absorb all the new entrants into the labor force. If this is correct what will be the anticipated unemployment rate by the end of this year?

Secretary WIRTZ. There were different statements as to what is going to happen as far as productivity is concerned. We have all done our homework on that. I think all we can say to you from our various studies—Mr. Ross and his people in the Bureau of Labor Statistics have made the same approach. We all come out in a range of 4, $4\frac{1}{2}$ percent for 1967 and I don't think any of us can be sure of the refined figures much more than that. Our own figure comes out in between those two as to the percentage that would be involved.

I think the important thing, at least to me, is that whatever we decide about 1967 that figure is going to have to be higher after 1967 and I would be very much concerned about the country settling back into thinking that 4 percent or 4-plus percent increase in the gross national product is going to carry us on through. There is doubt in all of our minds about the precise answer to your question for 1967, but we are all agreed that it is going to have to be higher than the identifiable factors we can see for this year in order to keep up with the expandable work force. That I can say to you with considerable certainty.

Representative WIDNALL. That is all, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Thank you, Mr. Widnall; and since you leave off exactly where I want to begin, I would like to follow up along the same lines.

I understood when we were discussing this earlier, Mr. Secretary, you said most of those not now employed would not—or perhaps should not—be employed, that they ought to be either in school or in training rather than at work, and at least they would not be employed without further training. That was the impression I got. Was that correct or not?

Secretary WIRTZ. That would have been my thought with respect to those under 20 years of age.

Chairman PROXMIRE. We now have 2.7 million out of work. Some of them are teenagers and I am talking about the overall picture. I want to press on you the notion that perhaps we should try to get